

*a3*

Page 5, replace the paragraph between lines 14-17 with:

--When a shearing operation is started, the plane front side 21 of the guide stop 17 is held at a short distance from the side of the bar to be processed. In the final phase of the shearing operation, the front side 21 rests against the side of the workpiece 1 or 2.--

*Sub B17*

*a4*

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Amended) A method of producing a bar notch (3) in a side of a side member (1) and a cross member notch (4) on an end of a cross member (2), the method comprising the steps of:

preliminarily shearing or punching said side member (1) to produce said bar notch (3), wherein said bar notch (3) includes a plane bottom (5), which is parallel with a side surface (1') in the side member and two equally long, oblique sides (6), which have oppositely direct equal inclinations in relation to the bottom (5),

preliminarily shearing or punching said cross member (2) to produce said cross member notch (4), wherein the cross member notch has a plane end (7) in a cross member (2) and two inclined sides (8), and

secondarily shearing said side member (1) and said cross member (2), wherein said side member is joined with said cross member by the bar notch (3) fitting into said cross member notch (4).

**REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed April 24, 2002, has been carefully reviewed in light of the Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions.